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from his
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Med. Dept. of

THE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THE Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania is rapidly increasing in respectability, and in the number of its pupils. The aggregate amount of the Students, during the last winter, was not less than 270, or 275. The greatest number of these were from Pennsylvania, and from the states south and west of Pennsylvania. A few were from New-England; a greater number from the state of New-Jersey; two or three from the West-India Islands; and at least two from Europe.

On the 27th of April last, a public examination of the Medical Candidates was held in the presence of the Trustees and Faculty of the University, and a number of the citizens; and on the following day, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon sixty gentlemen, each of whom had written and submitted to the Medical Professors an Inaugural Dissertation, which was publicly defended. The following is a list of the Graduates, a notice of the States or countries from which they came, or in which they reside, and the title of their dissertations.

1. Branch T. Archer, of Virginia, *On Cutaneous Absorption.*

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This class is for 1808

2. John Arnest, of Maryland, *On Abscess.*
3. William Aspinwall, of Massachusetts, *On Diabetes Mellitus.*
4. Jacob Baer, of Frederick-Town, Maryland, *On Puerperal Fever.*
5. Samuel Baker, of Maryland, *On the Form of Disease usually denominated Chorea Sancti Viti.*
6. William P. C. Barton, of Pennsylvania, *On the Chemical Properties and Exhilarating Effects of the Nitrous Oxide Gas; and its Application to Pneumatic Medicine.**
7. Samuel Benezet, of Pennsylvania, *On the Cynanche Trachealis.*
8. Samuel Betton, jun., of Philadelphia, *Observations made in two Voyages to India.*
9. George Callaway, of Virginia, *An Experimental Inquiry into the Properties and Effects of the Juglans Cinerea.*
10. James Clarke, of the County of Cavan, in Ireland, *On the Diurnal Revolutions of the Body.*
11. Samuel Colhoun, of Pennsylvania, *On the Influence of Light in producing the Colours of Animal and Vegetable Bodies.*

12. Matthew Cunningham, of Philadelphia, *On Local Inflammation.*
13. John H. Davis, of Pennsylvania, *On Lunar Influence.*
14. Archibald B. Dick, of Alexandria, in Virginia, *On the Pulse.*
15. William Dicks, of South-Carolina, *On Tetanus.*
16. George Fairlamb, of Pennsylvania, *On Hepatitis.*
17. Michael A. Finley, of Baltimore, *On the Use of the Muriatic Acid.*
18. William Foushee, jun., of Virginia, *On Cynanche Trachealis.*
19. Alexander Frazer, of Charleston, S. C., *An Attempt to prove that there is no definite period of Utero-Gestation in the Female of the human species.*
20. Robert O. Grayson, of Virginia, *An Investigation of the different opinions in favour of the Contagious nature of Remittent and Intermittent Fevers, together with an Inquiry into the Laws of Miasma, &c.*
21. William Grayson, of Virginia, *On the Nourishment of the Fœtus in Utero.*

22. Samuel Greenlee, of Virginia, *On the Advantages of Scepticism in the Study and Improvement of Medicine.*
23. William Willmott Hall, of Maryland, *Strictures on the Use of Cold Water in the Cure of Fevers.*
24. Isaac H. Hampton, of New-Jersey, *On Pneumonia.*
25. Arnold Hannenkampf, of Maryland, *On the Influenza.*
26. James Haynsworth, of the High-Hills of Santee, South-Carolina, *On the Yellow-Fever, as it appeared in Charleston, in the year 1807.*
27. Nathan Hays, of Pennsylvania, *On the Manner in which Medicines act upon the Living System.*
28. Isaac Heister, of Pennsylvania, *An Historical and Philosophical Inquiry into Absorption: containing a Series of Arguments to prove the Absorption of Substances not nutrient, whether applied externally or internally to the Human Body, as well as to that of some inferior Animals.*
29. Samuel Humes, of Pennsylvania, *On Dyspepsia.*
30. Samuel Jackson, of Philadelphia, *An Essay on Suspended Animation.**

31. Joseph Jones, of Virginia, *On Hepatitis.*
32. Samuel Leake, of Virginia, *On Vision.*
33. Charles Lukens, of Pennsylvania, *An Essay on Fever.*
34. Henry Marim, of Delaware, *On the Influenza, as it appeared in the State of Delaware, in 1807: with some Observations on the Nature of the Disease.*
35. Robert Mayo, of Virginia, *On the Sensorium.**
36. Archibald M'Kinney, *An Essay on the Physiology of the Human Mind.*
37. Nathaniel Nelson, jun., of York-Town, Virginia, *On Measles.*
38. J. B. Otto, of Pennsylvania, *On Tetanus.*
39. James Page, of Baltimore, Maryland, *On Superfætation.*
40. Robert Maskell Patterson, of Philadelphia, *In Proof of the Influence of the Moon in Diseases.*
41. John Perkin, of Philadelphia, *On the Hydrocele.*
42. William Pinkney, of Maryland, *On the Cholera Infantum.*

43. John Hunter Pope, of Georgia, *On the Vesiculæ Seminales.*
44. Philip C. Pope, of Virginia, *On the Nature and Treatment of Hypochondriasis.*
45. George Poyntell, of Philadelphia, *On that Grade of Madness called Manalgia.*
46. Thomas Grimball Prioleau, of Charleston, South-Carolina, *On the Aralia Spinosa.*
47. Boanerges Roberts, of Virginia, *On the Medical Properties of a species of Asclepias, or Swallow-wort.*
48. Reuben S. Safold, of Georgia, *On the Influence of the Mind on the Body in producing Diseases and Death.*
49. Richard Shubrick, of Charleston, South-Carolina, *On Menstruation.*
50. Fitz R. Smith, of New-Jersey, *On the Medical Properties of the Common Daffodil.*
51. William Kilty Smith, of Maryland, *On Mortification.*
52. Isaac A. Smith, of Virginia, *On the Virtues of Mineral Waters.*

53. Samuel Stewart, of Pennsylvania, *On Cuticular Absorption.*
 54. John D. Thomas, of Philadelphia, *On the Scrophulous Disease of the Hip-Joint.*
 55. Isaac Todd, of New-Jersey, *On Thirst, and the Advantages of abridging the Use of Diluents in Diseases which require Depletion.*
 56. Edmund H. Tucker, of George-Town, South-Carolina, *On Cataract.*
 57. John Wilson, of Alexandria, Virginia, *On the Transfusion of the Blood.*
 58. John Wishart, of Pennsylvania, *On Thyrocele (or Bronchocele).*
 59. Joseph Woollens, jun., of Pennsylvania, *On Hydrocephalus Internus.*
 60. Thomas Worthington, of Maryland, *On the Modus Operandi of Medicines.*
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The degrees were conferred on the Graduates by JOHN M^cDOWELL, LL. D., who is now the Provost (or Principal) of the University; after which an Address was delivered to them by DR. BARTON, the Dean of the Medical Faculty, for the present year. This Address will be published.

By a late regulation of the Trustees of the University, the medical graduates are not obliged to *publish* their Inaugural Dissertations. After the dissertations have been submitted to the Medical Faculty, *if they are approved of*, the publication is altogether optional; or entirely the act of the graduate. In consequence of this regulation, which has now been in operation for two terms, only a small number of the dissertations have been printed and published. Of the sixty, the titles of which are given above, only three have been published. These are marked with an asterisk *. Others, however, are intended for publication, either entire or in part; and some of them, perhaps, in a state more improved (by the authors themselves) than that in which they were originally presented to the Medical Faculty.

The writer of this account does not hesitate to give it as his own *individual* opinion, that the present existing regulation of the Trustees, in regard to the Inaugural Dissertations, is an improvement upon the former system. To *compel* a young man, who acknowledges that he has nothing new or important to communicate to the world (and whose dissertation is found, on examination, to have no claim whatever to *original* merit), to appear before the public as an author, seems, to use the mildest phrase, an *unnecessary* procedure. It is not meant to be insinuated, that such is the character of *all* the Inaugural Dissertations which have, hitherto, been published in Philadelphia. So far is this from being the case, that it is believed, that few universities, in any country, have produced more respectable original dissertations than some (*not a few*) of those which

have, at various times, particularly since the year 1792, been presented to the Trustees and Medical Professors of the University of Pennsylvania. These dissertations have not only procured reputation to their authors, but have even served to raise the reputation of the school which gave them birth.

But it is well known, that many of the inaugural dissertations of this and other Universities are, at best, but mere transcripts, and even imperfect transcripts, of the opinions or doctrines of the professors. Others are crude and unfinished performances, such as only serve to diminish the reputation of the school; and such, indeed, as their authors, at the expiration of a year or two, are ashamed to see, or acknowledge. Surely, it is advisable that such essays should not be *permitted* to be published; or, at least, it is proper that the authors should not be *constrained* to publish them.

It may be said, however, as it often has been said, that the new regulation of the Trustees (a regulation introduced at the request of the Medical Professors) serves to deprive the public of some *important* dissertations. Whatever foundation there may be for this suspicion, it is certain, that the new rule does not necessarily lead to this evil. On the contrary, it is even probable, that the dissertations which are really worthy of publication will, sooner or later, be printed and published in a more finished form than that in which they were originally presented to the professors. In regard to several of the dissertations of the present year, it is

known to be the intention of the graduates to publish them, when they shall have more leisure for the task, or shall have repeated, upon a more enlarged scale, the experimental parts of their essays.